

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-12 are rejected, and claim 13 is objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Application Publication No. US 2003/0234400 to Udagawa (US '400) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over US '400 in view of U.S. Application Publication No. US 2003/0027099 to Udagawa (US '099). Claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US '400 in view of US '099. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US '400 and US '099, further in view of U.S. Application Publication No. US 2004/0026703 to Adomi et al (US '703). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US '400 and US '099, further in view of U.S. Application Publication No. US 2003/0218180 to Fujiwara (US '180).

In response, claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner at pages 10-11 of the Office Action dated December 16, 2008, to thereby overcome the cited prior art references.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections and allowance of claims 1-5, 7 and 9-13 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 10/589,886

Attorney Docket No.: Q80551

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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